

Distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Richard Souza. I am from East Hartford. I am testifying today, March 6, 2023, in **opposition** to:

**H.B. No. 6816 An Act Concerning Microstamping-Enabled Pistols, Raising The Age To Purchase Ammunition & Restricting the Sale & Possession of Body Armor**

**Microstamping-Enabled Pistols**

I don't support wasting money to study Microstamping-Enabled Pistol technology because it will accomplish nothing to lower crime. It could also be used to incriminate innocent people and/or result in the deaths of innocent people. Let me explain.

The number one priority for handguns used for self defense purposes is that they be reliable. Reliability is more important than accuracy. The firearm must not jam or otherwise stop working. Increasing the number of parts in a firearm increases the chance for failure. That's the reason why Glock pistols with 34 parts are more reliable than 1911 pistols with 70 to 80 parts, depending on features. Retrofitting current pistol designs with Microstamping-Enabled technology is sure to cause a LOT of problems. If you think I am wrong, please add to this bill that all Connecticut law enforcement officers will be required to use the new Microstamping-Enabled Pistol technology as soon as it is available. Ask them to beta test the new technology with their lives, and see if they'll go along with that before you require it of us.

Second, assuming that one day reliable pistols could be designed that used this technology, what is to stop someone from picking up another person's microstamped brass casings at the gun range and planting them at a crime scene?

Third, what if a criminal uses a revolver that doesn't expel brass casings?  
A .22LR revolver has been the preferred weapon of many organized crime assassins.

Fourth, not all cartridges today use a soft brass casing that might be able to be stamped. Steel, lacquer coated steel or nickel cases might not be able to be stamped at all or only partially stamped, which could lead to incorrect interpretation of the characters stamped, like a 4 being misinterpreted as a 1 or a 3 as a 5.

**Raising The Age To Purchase Ammunition**

I don't see how increasing the age to buy ammunition from 18 to 21 will do anything to lower the crime rate in Connecticut. In order to buy ammunition in Connecticut, one has to possess either an ammunition eligibility certification, an eligibility certificate to purchase long guns, a handgun carry permit or an eligibility certificate to purchase pistols or revolvers. All of these require a national criminal instant background check, so anyone buying ammunition has already been established to not be a criminal. I also find it disgraceful that some in this legislature are suggesting that it's acceptable to them that an eighteen year old man can be drafted into military service and

sent overseas to defend his country, but his nineteen year old pregnant wife shouldn't be allowed to buy ammunition to protect herself while he is away.

### **Restricting the Sale & Possession of Body Armor**

Body armor is a passive protection system. Many people who are opposed to carrying a firearm would still like to stop being murdered by some madman's bullet. Making it illegal for good, honest people to own body armor will not stop criminals from getting it.

In the famous February 28, 1997 North Hollywood shootout, two heavily armed and armored bank robbers, Larry Phillips Jr. and Emil Mățășăreanu, shot it out with members of the Los Angeles Police Department in the North Hollywood district of Los Angeles, California, United States. Both robbers had hand sewn their own body armor at home from sheets of Kevlar. They didn't just have vests. They had coverings for their arms, hands, abdomens and legs. They also had Kevlar helmets. One died when he ran out of ammunition, and shot himself in the head. The other robber died when a police officer shot him in the foot, and then shot him at close range in the face when he fell over.

Making it illegal to own body armor makes about as much sense as requiring people who make homemade firearms to serialize and register such firearms with the government in order to stop crime. Criminals will continue to make body armor and unserialized unregistered firearms at home no matter what laws are passed because criminals do not obey the laws. I think that's the definition of a criminal. Why would our state government want criminals to have the advantage in any violent confrontation with us? **Making good people helpless will not make bad people less dangerous.**